

01/26/25

Free Talk

Rat race 内卷

E.g. Mathematics education in mainland China feels like a **rat race**, with students constantly competing to outperform each other.

Judge someone by their appearance 以貌取人

Do you know what's the result of ... **X!!!**

Do you know what the result is ... **V!!!**

“I wonder 春节是什么时候?”

I wonder when is the Chinese New Year? **X!!!**

I wonder when the Chinese New Year **is**. **V!!!**

Do you know what **are you** going to do in Singapore during the Chinese New Year? **X!!!**

Do you know what **you are** going to do in Singapore during the Chinese New Year? **V!!!**

Can you tell me what your favourite food was ... **V**

Can you tell me when your Wifi was installed? **V**

Do you know where did you park your car? **X**

Do you know where you parked your car? **V**

在间接疑问句 (indirect questions) 中, 句子结构是陈述语序 (主语在前, 动词在后), 而不是疑问语序。

Three Types of Writing Structures: Article, Report, Review

I. Article (Support A, not B)

Paragraph 1

Background (! 改写! 题目)

Opinion (Writing purpose -> to explain)

Paragraph 2

Positive side of B!!

Opinion + explanation + example

Paragraph 3

More advantages of A

Opinion + explanation + example

(develop a paragraph longer than P2 with more details)

Paragraph 4

Overall / In summary / To summarize / To conclude / All in all ...

Overall, it is clear that the benefits **outweigh** the drawbacks.

In conclusion, while both sides have their strengths, this option clearly

stands out because...

例子:

A: students who learn faster should do something more difficult

B: every students should do the same math exercise

Positive side of B:

It is fair to all the student

For those who learn faster, they have more time to go over what they have learnt

Positive side of A:

Students who learn faster can continue to challenge themselves

Faster learners can make better use of their classroom time by working on more challenging tasks

...

II. Report (Problem & Solution)

Paragraph 1

Background

Writing Purpose: Pointing out problems -> give solutions

Paragraph 2

The positive sides

Opinion + explanation + example

Paragraph 3

However!!!

Pointing out Problem(s) -> Explaining Problem(s) with example

Giving Proper Solution(s) -> Detailing Solution(s) with example

Paragraph 4

Overall / In summary / To summarize / To conclude / All in all ...

Benefits ... but with drawbacks

If ... it would be ... (expectation)

III. Review

Paragraph 1

Background

Writing Purpose: Providing Reference / Helping Others to Know More

*give/share/provide

Paragraph 2

Positive sides ...

Opinion + Explanation + Example

Paragraph 3

Negative Side

Opinion + Explanation + Example

Paragraph 4

Overall / In summary / To summarize / To conclude / All in all ...

Advantages BUT Problems

If ... it would be ... (expectation)

New Writing Task - In-class Practising

In class, you have been talking about whether it is better to have a big group of friends or just one best friend. Your teacher has asked you to write an article about it.

Here are two comments from your classmates:

I can tell my best friend everything.

Having lots of friends means having more fun!

Write an article for your teacher, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your article, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

Introduction:

Friendships are (+an) essential part of our life. Some people prefer having a single best friend, while others enjoy the company of a larger group. In my opinion, having a big group of friends is better because it makes life more exciting and offers many opportunities to connect with different people. (第二段+第三段围绕这句话展开写)

Body Paragraph 1:

Having a best friend can be incredibly rewarding. With one close friend, you often build a deeper level of trust and understanding. ~~As one of my classmates said, "I can tell my best friend everything."~~ This type of bond allows you to share your secrets, worries, and dreams without fear of judgment (列举法举例子). A best friend is like a personal diary that listens,

advises, and supports you no matter what.

Body Paragraph 2:

However / On the other hand, having a big group of friends means there's (→ there is) always someone around to have fun with. Whether it's (→ it is) a party, a group outing, or simply hanging out (列举法举例子), you're (→ you are) surrounded by people with different personalities and interests. As another classmate mentioned, "Having lots of friends means having more fun!" A group of friends offers variety, and I love how it brings energy and excitement to life (→ and it brings energy and excitement to life).

Conclusion:

In conclusion / In summary / To sum up / To conclude / To summarize / All in all, having a group of friends is more fulfilling. While a best friend offers closeness, a larger group provides endless opportunities to share laughter, learn from others, and enjoy life to the fullest. (+ Therefore, I believe having a big group of friends is better.) (Therefore... 点题)

WHAT IF IT IS AN OPINION ESSAY?

Write about the following topic:

In class, you have been talking about whether it is better to have a big group of friends or just one best friend. Most of your classmates prefer having a big group of friends. Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 180 words.

.....

Different ways of asking questions

- *Do you agree or disagree?
- *To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- *To what extent do you agree?
- *What is your opinion?

.....

Introduction:

Friendship plays a crucial role in our life. Some people think that it is better to have one best friend, while others believe having a big group of friends has more positive sides. In my opinion, having one best friend is more meaningful and beneficial for several reasons. (第二段+第三段围绕这句话

展开写 → what are these several reason?)

Body Paragraph 1:

Firstly, a best friend provide a sense of trust and emotional secure
(→ security) (Reason 1). It is often difficult to achieve a large group.
You can share your deepest thought to your best friends. This kind of

intimacy creates a bond that is hard to replicate in a larger circle, where personal connections can feel diluted. For example, during a difficult time in my life, my best friend offered support and guidance that no group could have matched.

Body Paragraph 2:

Secondly, having a big group of friends can (→might) be overwhelming and complicated (Reason2). Differences in opinions, schedules, and priorities often lead to conflicts or misunderstandings. With one best friend, it is easier to nurture the relationship without unnecessary issues.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, ...

Homework - OPINION ESSAY

Write about the following topic:

The working week should be shorter and workers should have a longer weekend.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 180 words.

.....

Introduction:

...

Body Paragraph 1:

...

Body Paragraph 2:

...

Conclusion:

...

****注意**** 观点要一边倒，不要左右摇摆